



Georgia Economic Update

October 20, 2015

Summary

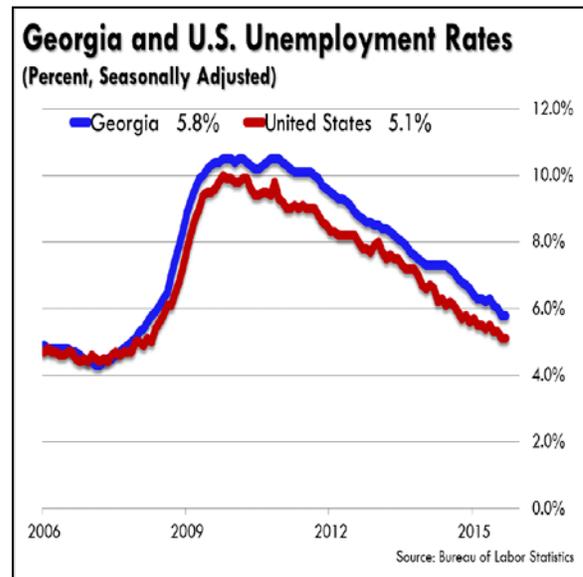
Nonfarm payroll employment in Georgia increased by 9,100 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Georgia Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in Georgia was unchanged at 5.8 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 4,288 in September to 272,523, while the labor force fell by 2,830 to 4,729,247. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 38 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Georgia. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Georgia stood at 6.9 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Georgia was 10.5 percent in December 2010. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in Georgia. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Georgia was 4.3 percent in March 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Georgia occurred in November 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 3.4 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.1 percent in September. September's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The ten year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The ten year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Georgia Payroll Employment

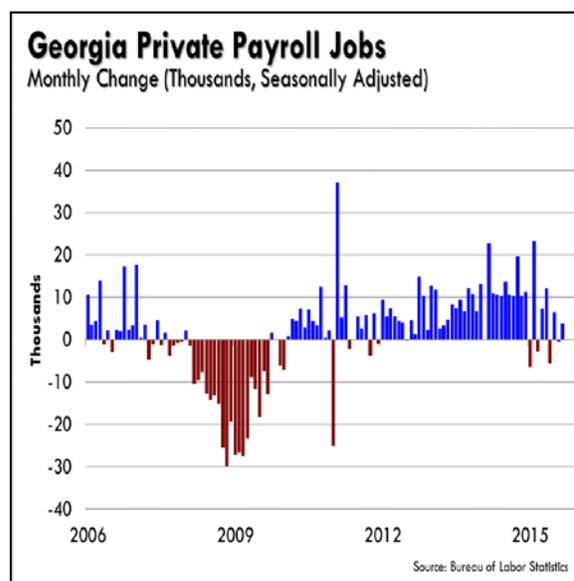
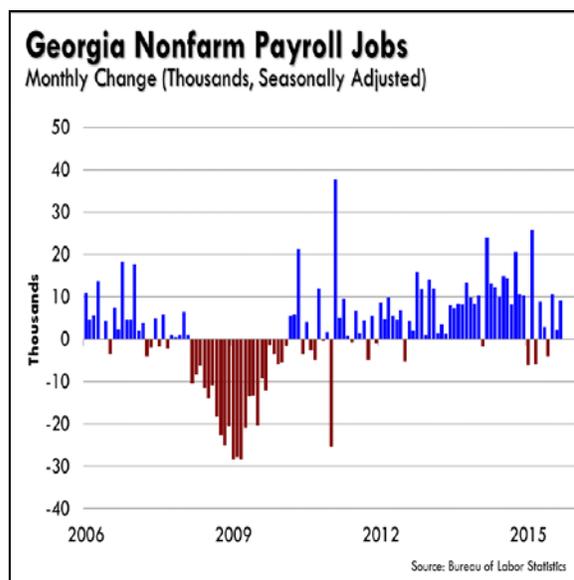
Georgia nonfarm payrolls increased by 9,100 jobs, or 0.21 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,200. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Georgia increased by 84,200, or 2.01 percent. Georgia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 142,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in September 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,752,000 jobs, or 1.97 percent. Georgia ranks 12nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, Georgia private sector payrolls increased by 3,900, or 0.11 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Georgia increased by 78,600, or 2.25 percent. Georgia private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 118,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,603,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.21 percent. Georgia ranks 14th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, total government payroll employment in Georgia increased by 5,200, or 0.76 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 200, or 0.20 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 2,600, or 1.50 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 2,800, or 0.67 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 5,600, or 0.81 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 4,000, or 2.22 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 10,100, or 2.47 percent.

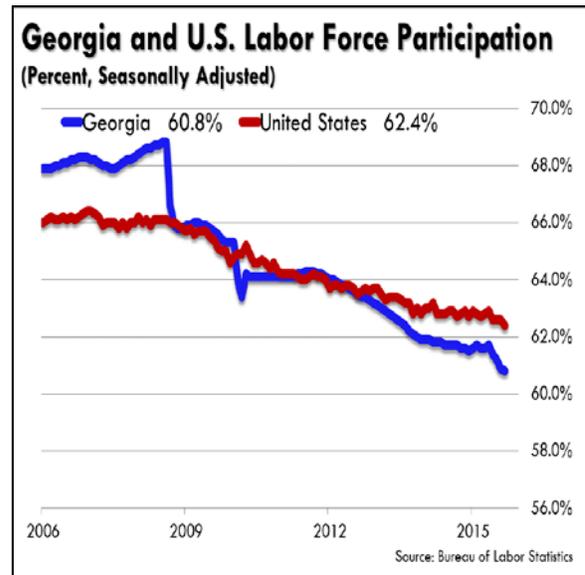
The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Total Government (+5,200) and Educational & Health Services (+3,200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-3,400) and Financial Activities (-700).



The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+26,100) and Leisure & Hospitality (+17,700). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Mining & Logging (-400) and Other Services (+100).

Other Georgia Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Georgia declined to 60.8 percent in September from 60.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 36 have a higher labor force participation rate than Georgia. The labor force participation rate in Georgia is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.



The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Georgia was 68.8 percent in August 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Georgia occurred in December 1998 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.7 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.8 percent in September 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Georgia.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.4 percent in September. That rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Georgia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 57.3 percent in September from 57.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 37 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Georgia. The employment-to-population ratio in Georgia is 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Georgia was 65.2 percent in February 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Georgia

occurred in April 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.1 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.8 percent in March 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 2010 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.8 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.2 percentage point to 59.2 percent in September. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009 and at 62.7 percent when it began in December 2007. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for October is scheduled for release on Friday, November 20. The national employment situation report for October will be released on Friday, November 6.

